

for said ink ribbon are releasably secured by said holder against rotation, such that said tape cassette is in an operable state when said ink ribbon is mounted in said tape cassette, but released from said holder, and wherein said supply spool and said take-up spool of said ink ribbon are fixed to said holder by said tear-off tape.

REMARKS

Regarding the election made, the traverse was based upon the fact that the search of one group of claims necessarily involves a search of the others. It was noted that there would not be an undo burden placed upon the examination process to also search claims 48 and 49. the basis of the traverse was not that "the inventions are distinct from each other."

The specification has been amended on pages 8 and 18 to identify the holder relative to elements 41 and 120. Claim 43 has been amended to change "tape casstee" to "tape cassette," claims 24, 26, 28, 30-35, 37, 38 and 43 have been amended to overcome their indefiniteness, claims 42, 45 and 47 canceled, claim 46 amended to include the subject matter of claim 47 and new claims 50-52 added. New claims 50-52 and claims 34, 37 and 38 which depend therefrom, should now be in prima facie condition for allowance.

The rejection of claims 24-28 under 35 USC 102(b) over Umbach, and the rejection of claims 29, 30, 35, 44, and 46 under 35 USC 103(a) over Umbach in view of Wolynski are noted and respectfully traversed.

Umbach does not disclose means for selectively accommodate tape supplies of different tape width, and the combination of Umbach and Wolynski do not teach or suggest the structure recite in claim 29, for example. The ribs which mate with the internal flange of the bobbin is not seen in this combination, for example.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and this application passed to issue.



June 19, 2000

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Felix J. D'Ambrosio".

Felix J. D'Ambrosio
Reg. No. 25,721

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JUN 20 2000

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